

EUBLEMMA KETTLEWELLI AND *E. UHLENHUTHI* (LEP.:
NOCTUIDAE) TWO NEW SPECIES FROM AFRICA NEAR
E. REDUCTA (BUTLER)

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Summary

Eublemma kettlewelli sp.n. from Southern Africa and *Eublemma uhlenhuthi* sp.n. from Ethiopia, are described and illustrated. They may be placed after *Eublemma reducta* (Butler) and are eremic elements of the *Eublemma olivacea* (Walker) group, with atypical habitus.

Eublemma kettlewelli sp.n. (Figs.1, 2, 5, 6).

Diagnosis: span 20-30mm.; forwing with dark median shade running outwards obliquely from costa and widening but not united to the dark terminal field. There is a conspicuous whitish basal streak.

Description : antenna of male, with dense cilia, longer than width of shaft; of female, simple. Proboscis, reduced. Vertex of head light bistre. Palp, well developed, grey-brown laterally, shaggy-scaled except on the finer third segment which is quite long.

Forewing mostly pale bistre, but lightly powdered with rosy brown above the cell to about 1/3 and also in the subapical triangular patch; costa, marked by two oblique faint olive dashes not reaching beyond the median nervure, before the dark olive-green median bar which also runs outwards towards the tornus and is widest at its most distal point, where a pale rounded submarginal line, indicated above by isolated dots, separates it from the olive-green subterminal line; the latter varies in width and may contrast with the pale terminal line. Fringe, darker grey basad. A suffused white basal streak almost bisects the olive-green dorsal area but does not reach the median bar. The isolated subapical triangular dark patch contains a pale bistre streak which is the start of the discontinuous submarginal line. The proximal and distal borders of the patch are both wider. In some examples there is a fine black spot in the cell.

Hindwings of male white with light brown termen and fringe; of female, pale olive-brown, with two whitish postmedian lines, darker terminad.

Male genitalia with parallel costal and ventral valve-borders, and rounded tip without corona; harpe medial, sclerotised, like a crooked finger. Uncus normal, aedeagus vesica without cornutus.

Female genitalia – ostium with straight posterior edge, and antrum a shallow, lightly sclerotised bowl. Bursa copulatrix without signum, tapering and spiculated towards the entry of the ductus bursae.

HOLOTYPE Male (Prep. WBM. 320) Botswana (“Bechuana-land”) Upington, 12.iii.1950 (H. B. D. Kettlewell) in British Museum (Natural History).

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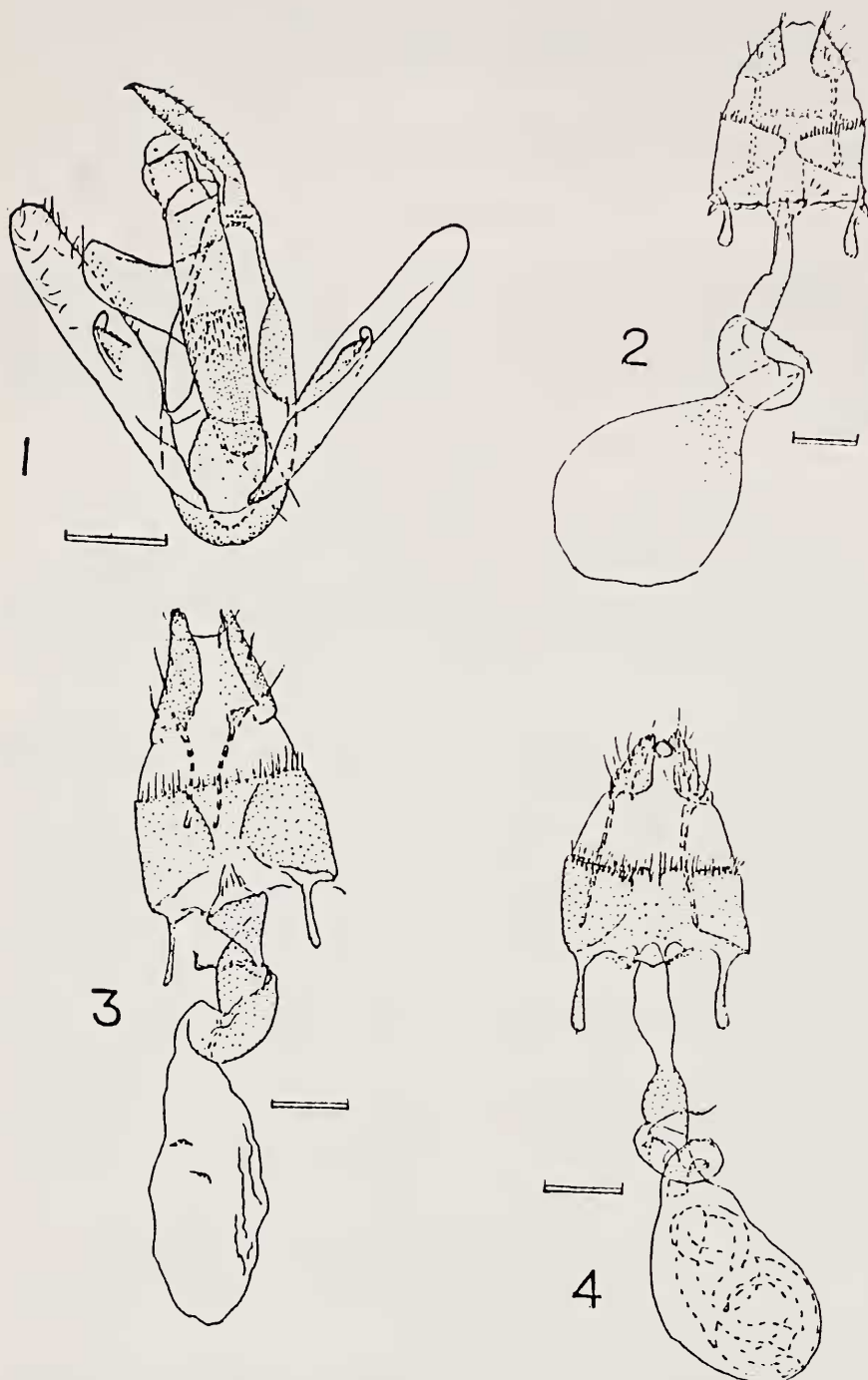
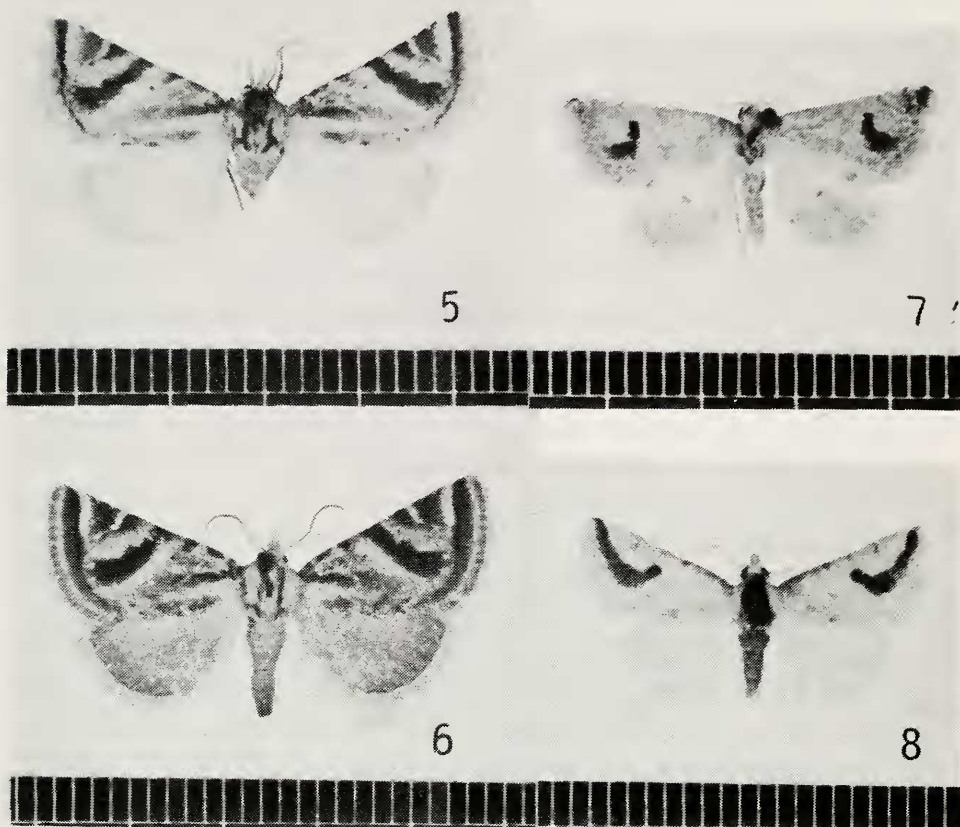


Fig. 1 *Eublemma kettlewelli* sp. n. Holotype. Male genitalia.

Fig. 2 *Eublemma kettlewelli* sp. n. Paratype. Female genitalia.

Fig. 3 *Eublemma uhlenhuthi* sp. n. Holotype. Virgin female genitalia.

Fig. 4 *Eublemma reducta* Butler. Impregnated female genitalia (scale bars = 0.5 mm).



Figs. 5-8. Fig. 5 *Eublema kettlewelli* sp.n. Male Holotype. Fig. 6 *E. kettlewelli* sp.n. Female. Paratype. Fig. 7 *Eublema uhlenhuthi* sp.n. Female. Holotype. Fig. 8 *Eublemma reducta* Butler (Abyssinia). Male. (all figures x2).

PARATYPE Female (Prep.WBM.14) South Africa: Kuis of Malopo, 14.iv.1928 (J. C. Faure); Cape Province, Geluk, male and female, 13.xi.1961 (L. Vari); Orange Free State, Michville, female 29.1.1930 (H. K. Munro); Bloemfontein male 20.iv.1920 (H. E. Irving); Botswana, V-L Kalahari Expedition, Gomodini, 2 males, 1-5.iv.1930 and Kuko Pan 21-30.iii.1930. All in Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, South Africa.

***Eublemma uhlenhuthi* sp.n. (Figs. 3, 7)**

Diagnosis : Span 20 mm. Forewing rosy beige, lacking the horn-shaped mark typical of *E. reducta* (fig. 8), having instead a smaller, blackish L-shaped mark ; hindwing with grey cell-spot absent in *reducta* and paler than the female *reducta*. Bursa copulatrix with signa, lacking in *reducta*. (fig. 4).

Description : Male unknown. Antenna of female with dense short cilia. (cf. *reducta* female which has sparse short cilia); proboscis much reduced, as in *reducta*; palp, all segments with shaggy adpressed scales, slightly shorter on the third segment. Thorax and upperside, rosy beige, the costa not darker

suffused as in *reducta*; two faint, paler, wavy cross-lines can be traced, one medial and the other submarginal; termen, a paler line edged proximally with paler dots at the nervure ends. Fringe, pale grey. Hindwing paler than in *reducta* female, with grey cell-spot, and with faint traces of a pale submarginal line.

Female genitalia : anal papillae longer and more acute than in those of *reducta*, the ostium and ductus bursae more sclerotised. Bursa copulatrix, long oval, with two medial distally-located transverse linear signa in the form of a scobinated ridge. There are also some less sclerotised longitudinal wrinkles with incipient spiculation.

HOLOTYPE female (Prep. WBM. 373): Abyssinia, Dire-dawa, iv.1936, (H. Uhlenhuth) in British Museum (Natural History). The unique type was taken together with many *E. reducta*, with which it remained confused for years.

Acknowledgements

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CERAMICA PISI L. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) : LARVAL FOOD-PLANT PREFERENCES —Most of the textbooks cite a number of larval foodplants for this moth, but rarely local preferences. Useful and interesting detail appears in J. Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent* 2, 1968) and L. and K. Evans (*A Survey of the Macro-lepidoptera of Croydon and N. E. Surrey*, 1973), and surely such works are those in which such information should appear. Perusal of some of the local Lepidoptera lists which have appeared in recent years proved disappointing, such knowledge being absent or even in some cases a matter of guesswork and fiction!

I became acquainted with *pisi* larvae in the 1930s on Dartford Heath, Kent where I found them commonly upon broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and bracken (*Pteris aquilina*); later I found them defoliating small birches (*Betula* sp.) on waste ground adjacent to Dartford Heath where bracken and broom were absent, and feeding on sea aster (*Aster tripolium*) in some numbers on the Dartford Marshes. On July 31st 1987 near Rinnamona in the Burren of Co. Clare I found the larvae not uncommonly upon bog myrtle (*Myrica gale*), and despite searching, none upon scabious, bracken or other plants growing in the vicinity. On August 3rd more were found on bog myrtle, but on no other plants, near Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim. Regarding the Burren, bog myrtle is a very local plant, but *C. pisi* is widespread, so what preference does it have elsewhere in that region I wonder? — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Darford, Kent.